

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02977 122315Z
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEA-10 EB-08 L-03 OES-07
INR-07 SS-15 SP-02 PRS-01 /076 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5297
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I A D E N T I A L USUN 2977

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PLOS, CE
SUBJECT: AMERASINGHE PRESIDENCY OF LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

REF: COLOMBO 3325

1. KEEPING AMERASINGHE ON AS PRESIDENT OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE MAY BE LESS COMPLICATED FROM AN INSTITUTIONAL VIEWPOINT THAN MIGHT OTHERWISE BE THOUGHT. LOS CONFERENCE ELECTED "MR. AMERASINGHE OF SRI LANKA" PRESIDENT BY ACCLAMATION ON PROPOSAL OF THE SYG AT ITS FIRST MEETING ON 3 DECEMBER 1973 (SEE RECORDS, PARA. 13). CONFERENCE RULES OF PROCEDURE STATE THAT THE CONFERENCE IS TO ELECT A PRESIDENT WHO, AS OTHER CONFERENCE OFFICERS ""SHALL BE ELECTED ON THE BASIS OF INSURING THE REPRESENTATIVE CHARACTER OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE" AND THAT HIS TERM OF OFFICE" SHALL BE FOR ALL SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE" (RULE 6). MOREOVER, AN ELECTED PRESIDENT CONTINUES SITTING UNTIL HE WERE TO BECOME "UNABLE TO PERFORM HIS FUNCTIONS" (RULE 11).

2. LEGAL SUM TOTAL OF THESE FACTS IS THAT AMERASINGHE WILL REMAIN AS PRESIDENT SO LONG AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF SRI LANKA TO THE CONFERENCE. THUS, GOSL WOULD MERELY NEED TO RETAIN AMERASINGHE AS ITS
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REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LOS CONFERENCE FOR HIM TO CONTINUE AS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT. IN THAT EVENT NO ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE, NOR FOR THAT MATTER THE UNGA, WOULD BE REQUIRED OR APPROPRIATE.

3. FOREGOING WOULD NEED TO BE CHECKED WITH CONFERENCE ESTABLISHMENT TO ASURE ITS VIABILITY IN CONTEXT OF

CONFERENCE POLITICS.
LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
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